

Application Serial No. 10/797,663
Amendment dated January 25, 2006
Reply to Office Action dated October 26, 2006

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (previously presented): A tibial implant apparatus, comprising:
 - a tibial plate having a superior surface and an inferior surface;
 - a base extending downwardly from the inferior surface of the tibial plate;
 - an elongate member including a shaft having a superior end and an inferior end and a radially projecting shoulder formed adjacent the superior end; the tibial plate and the base defining a through-channel, the elongated member extending through the tibial plate and base superior-distally, the shoulder of the elongated member seating in the through-channel, the shaft of the elongated member extending inferiorly away from the base, the superior end of the elongated member defining a superiorly facing, internally threaded, socket;
 - a tibio-femoral insert removably engaged with the superior surface of the tibial plate; and
 - a screw extending through the tibio-femoral insert and threadably engaged with threaded socket of the elongated member to retain the tibio-femoral insert on the tibial plate.
2. (canceled)
3. (original): The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the first portion of the elongate member is removably retained in the through-channel.
4. (canceled)
5. (original): The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the base includes a first generally keel-like portion.

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6. (original): The apparatus of claim 5, wherein the first generally keel-like portion extends generally radially outwardly relative to the through-channel.

7. (original): The apparatus of claim 6, wherein the base includes a second generally keel-like portion extending generally radially outwardly relative to the through-channel at an angle of about 180 degrees from the radially outwardly extension of the first generally keel-like portion.

8. (previously presented): The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the elongated member is retained in the through-channel at least in part by at least one of screwing into the base and tapering into the base.

9. (canceled)

10. (previously presented): The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the socket includes a generally hexagonally-shaped portion.

11. (canceled)

12. (original): The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the base includes a plurality of protuberances positioned generally radially outwardly away from the through-channel.

13. - 21. (canceled)

22. (previously presented): A method for anchoring a tibial implant to a proximal tibia, the method comprising the steps of:

seating a tibial plate on the proximal tibia;
extending an elongated member through the tibial plate and into the tibia;
mounting a tibio-femoral insert to the tibial plate; and
inserting a screw through the tibio-femoral insert and into threaded engagement with a socket formed in the elongated member to retain the tibio-femoral insert on the tibial plate.

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23. (previously presented): The method of claim 22, wherein extending an elongated member through the tibial plate includes threadably engaging the elongated member with the tibial plate.